

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 061714Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0518

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, UK

SUBJECT: ANGUILLA'S NEW CONSTITUTION

REF: BRIDGETOWN 0348

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER, OFFICIALS IN THE FCO WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT CONFIRMED THE ANOMALOUS NATURE OF ANGUILLA'S CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS DESCRIBED REFTEL. THE NEW CONSTITUTION IS AN EXTENSION OF THE ANGUILLA ACT OF 1971 WHICH ESTABLISHED A SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ISLAND. WITH A LEGISLATIVE RATHER THAN AN ADVISORY ASSEMBLY, ANGUILLA NOW TAKES ON ALL THE STANDARD TRAPPINGS OF A BRITISH CROWN COLONY.

2. OFFICIALS HERE READILY ACKNOWLEDGE THE DE JURE AND DE FACTO CONTRADICTION IN ANGUILLA'S STATUS. THE 1967 WEST INDIES ACT SIMPLY DID NOT WORK, THEY SAY. ANGUILLANS REFUSE TO LOIN ST. KITTS-NEVIS, AND BRITAIN IS NOT PREPARED TO FORCE THEM BACK INTO THE UUNION. THE FCO
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EXPECTS TO RESOLVE THE ANOMALY WHEN PREMIER BRADSHAW

BEGINS SERIOUSLY TO PRESS FOR INDEPENDENCE. ALREADY NERVOUS THAT NEVIS MAY ALSO TRY TO BREAK AWAY, BRADSHAW WOULD LIKELY AGREE TO A QUID ORO QUO ARRANGEMENT WITH THE UK IN WHICH BRITISH ENDORSEMENT OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS INDEPENDENCE IS EXCHANGED FOR BRADSHAW'S RECOGNITION OF ANGUILLA'S SEPARATE STATUS. THIS MUTUALLY AGREED TRADE-OFF WOULD THEN BE LEGITIMIZED IN APPROPRIATE ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

3. NEW ANGUILLAN CONSTITUTION POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT (ARA/CAR).

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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